



## Afghanistan Reconstruction Conference

*cosponsored by the*

**U.S. Trade and Development Agency & U.S. Department of Commerce**

**June 8-10, 2003 Chicago, IL**

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### **BACKGROUND:**

The **Afghanistan Reconstruction Conference** will bring together key players responsible for the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan, including key Afghan officials, concerned U.S. Government agencies, representatives of international financial institutions, and members of the Afghan-American community. It will provide a unique forum to discuss the Afghan Government's plans for the implementation of specific projects and the manner in which the U.S. private sector can participate in the reconstruction effort. The conference is designed for U.S. firms with both a commercial interest in the country and the capacity to deal with the many challenges of Afghanistan's business environment. Projects to be presented will be in the following sectors:

- Electric power;
- Water and sanitation;
- Transportation, including roads and civil aviation;
- Oil and gas development and pipelines;
- Telecommunications; and
- Construction.

### **ABOUT AFGHAN RECONSTRUCTION:**

Due to the massive destruction that two decades of war has visited upon Afghanistan, there is an urgent need for reconstruction. The state of the country's infrastructure is desperate. According to a World Bank report, approximately a quarter of urban housing has been seriously damaged or destroyed, street lighting has virtually disappeared, and the majority of public buildings have been damaged and/or looted. Water distribution and the sewage system have been seriously degraded. The power system is estimated to supply electricity to a mere 4% of the population. The transportation system has been virtually destroyed. Coalition military forces currently provide the only air traffic control in the country. The hydrocarbon sector, a point of interest due to large potential oil and gas reserves, will require considerable investment.

In response to this situation, the international community has pledged more than US\$4.5 billion for reconstruction efforts. This sum, however, represents only a small portion of the funds that will be needed for the long-term rehabilitation of the country. The Government of Afghanistan has adopted a parallel approach for promoting the rebuilding of infrastructure, which seeks to use existing government structures to supervise and/or implement emergency repairs, while maximizing the involvement of the private sector.

The reconstruction of Afghanistan is a significant commercial opportunity for U.S. firms, and there is an urgent need for private sector participation in a number of projects. At the same time, the difficulty of this task should not be underestimated. The security situation is perhaps the most obvious obstacle. Other issues include the challenging macroeconomic situation, legal and regulatory issues, an opaque business climate, and the lack of supporting infrastructure. This conference will provide U.S. firms the opportunity to discuss these issues and specific projects with Afghan officials at the Ministerial level.

### **ANTICIPATED ATTENDANCE:**

Anticipated attendance is **225-250 participants**, comprised of up to 25 senior-level Afghan Government officials, representatives of USTDA, the U.S. Departments of Commerce, State and Treasury, OPIC, and the National Security Council, U.S. company representatives, representatives of international financial institutions, and members of the Afghan-American business community.

### **REGISTRATION FEES:**

The registration fee is US \$500 for U.S. companies. The fee includes a copy of the **Project Resource Guide and CD, Conference Handbook, participant list, all meals and receptions and One-on-One meeting pre-scheduling**, as noted in the conference program.

**CONFERENCE DATES & VENUE:**

The conference is scheduled for June 8-10, 2003 at the Renaissance Hotel in Chicago, IL

**SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:**

This conference provides a unique opportunity for U.S. companies to demonstrate their interest in and support for Afghanistan's reconstruction. Sponsorship benefits include complimentary registration, on-site signage, pre-conference marketing recognition, and a corporate profile in the conference materials. A detailed prospectus of sponsorship opportunities is available to U.S. companies from MFM Group, Inc.

**OFFICIAL CONFERENCE WEB SITE:**

The official conference web site is [www.trademeetings.com](http://www.trademeetings.com).

**ABOUT USTDA:**

The U.S. Trade and Development Agency advances economic development and U.S. commercial interests in developing and middle-income countries. The agency funds various forms of technical assistance, feasibility studies, training, orientation visits and business workshops that support the development of a modern infrastructure and a fair and open trading environment. USTDA's strategic use of foreign assistance funds to support sound investment policy and decision-making in host countries creates an enabling environment for trade, investment and sustainable economic development. In carrying out its mission, USTDA gives emphasis to economic sectors that may benefit from U.S. exports of goods and services.

**ABOUT THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT:**

The U.S. Department of Commerce promotes U.S. businesses, trade, and U.S. economic policy. The Afghanistan Reconstruction Task Force of the U.S. Department of Commerce serves as a clearinghouse of information for U.S. companies interested in rebuilding Afghanistan. The Task Force works closely with the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, other U.S. Government agencies, and international organizations to provide U.S. companies counseling on the latest developments and opportunities for rebuilding Afghanistan.

**CONFERENCE CONTACTS:**

MFM Management for Meetings, a Division of MFM Group, Inc., is organizing the conference. The Louis Berger Group is conducting project

research and preparing the technical content and briefing book for the conference.

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